



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BALTIMORE DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Baltimore Employees Help with Housing and Debris Removal

Baltimore - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District has deployed 15 employees to provide emergency management support along the Gulf Coast following the effects of Hurricane Katrina, with seven more preparing to join the recovery efforts. The Corps mission is to provide the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance with removing debris, constructing temporary housing, repairing roofs and providing emergency ice and power.

Seven Baltimore District employees are providing engineering, contracting, real estate and quality assurance expertise to the Corps' debris removal mission in Louisiana. One employee recently arrived in the region to provide housing assistance to the impacted states, while four logistics planning response team members are on the ground supporting FEMA. A mission manager, cost engineer specialist, two contracting specialists and three real estate specialists are preparing to deploy later in the week.

The Baltimore District Rapid Response Vehicle, or RRV, normally stationed at a Corps facility at Fort McHenry in downtown Baltimore, deployed last weekend to Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala., shortly after the hurricane made its way across the Gulf Coast states. The 36-foot-long vehicle is equipped with laptop computers, office software, global position system equipment, satellite communications, cellular phone, drafting and mapping software, and wireless capability to network laptops within 200 feet of the RRV.

Currently, Corps, FEMA and U.S. Forest Service personnel are using the RRV's communication equipment to coordinate emergency support to the region.

More employees are likely to deploy to the region to assist FEMA and other Corps of Engineers districts to provide engineering and technology support. This is the third hurricane to which Baltimore District's employees have responded in 2005.